



CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1964

For the Year 1964

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. N.F. SAWERS, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

L.W. BLAKE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk - Mrs. P.M. Gill.



Mr. Chairman & Members of the  
Crediton Urban District Council.

I have the honour to present my report for 1964.

With the end in sight for the Council's water undertaking it is very pleasing to note that the Council's supply is first rate as regards quantity and quality and with every house except one in the whole of the district receiving piped water at adequate pressure it shows great foresight on the part of the present and previous Councils.

If the same progressive line had been taken with sewerage and sewage disposal the present deplorable state of affairs would never have existed but although it seems the scheme will now come the complete lack of urgency by persons over whom the Council have no control is disturbing.

As is usual in smaller authorities staff leave for better positions and the departure of Mr. Osborne, the Additional Public Health Inspector, left a gap which has not been possible to fill. Mr. Osborne's activities did much to bring up to date the routine work which is the backbone of the Health Department.

With the exception of the medical section the report has been compiled by Mr. Blake and produced by Mrs. Gill in his office.

I am, Madam & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

N.F. SAWERS  
Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A

### 1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,096
Registrar General's estimate of population	...	...					4,660
No. of inhabited houses at end of 1964 according to the rate book ..	...	...	...	...			1,588
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£177,325
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£696

### 2. VITAL STATISTICS.

#### (a) Live Births

Male	Female	Total
24	29	53

#### Births illegitimate

Male	Female	Total
1	2	3

Crude birth rate per 1,000 of population	11.37
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 of population	12.05

(b) Still Births.

There were no still births in 1964.

(c) Deaths.

(a) Death rate.

Male	Female	Total
27	32	59

Crude death rate per 1,000 of population 12.66

Corrected death rate per 1,000 of population 11.39

(b) Deaths from puerperal causes Nil

(c) Infantile Mortality.

(Deaths of infants under one year of age) Nil

(d) Causes of death as follows:-

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	1							1		
	F	2						1			1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.	M	-									
	F	1									1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.	F	1							1		
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	2									2
	F	5						1	2		2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	-									
	F	6								1	5
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	5							1	1	3
	F	3								2	1

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
Other Heart Disease	M	3					1			1	1
	F	9			1				1	2	5
Other Circulatory Disease	M	1									1
	F	1									1
Pneumonia	M	6									6
	R	1									1
Bronchitis	M	-									
	F	1								1	
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1							1		
	F	-									
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	M	-									
	F	2								1	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	M	1				1					
	F	-									
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1									1
Other Defined & ill-Defined Diseases	M	4						1			3
	F	-									
All other Accidents	M	1								1	
	F	-									
Suicide	M	1						1			
	F	-									
Total All Causes	M	27				1	1	2	3	3	17
	F	32			1			2	4	7	18

## SECTION B

### 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

#### (a) Nursing Service.

A resident District Nurse employed by the Devon County Council adequately provides this service.

(b) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These are visited at home by two Devon County Council Health Visitors.

(c) Maternity & Child Welfare Services.

The District Nurse Midwife working in co-operation with the General Practitioners provide the basis for ante-natal care, confinement and post-natal care. In addition home helps are provided by the Devon County Council in appropriate cases.

In cases where home conditions are unsuitable confinement arrangements are made for the mother to go to Redhills Hospital, Exeter.

Child Welfare and Maternity Clinics are held at Newcombes weekly and during 1964 attendances were as follows:-

<u>Infants</u>	<u>Toddlers</u>	<u>Children 2 - 5</u>	<u>Total</u>
1291	1409	578	3278

Vaccinations, diphtheria and poliomyelitis immunisations are available at this Clinic but a fuller use could be made of the service.

(d) Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases.

There are no centres in Crediton for these diseases. Cases of tuberculosis are seen by the Tuberculosis Officer at Ivybank, Exeter and he then decides whether they are nursed at home or sent to Hawkmoor Sanatorium.

(e) Mass Radiography.

Sessions in Crediton are arranged at regular intervals and almost the whole population has now been screened.

(f) Infectious Diseases.

These are nursed at home and if the Doctor in attendance considers they should be transferred to hospital they are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital.



(g) Ambulances.

The Devon County Council control the ambulance service and at present one ambulance is stationed in Crediton and run by the Crediton Branch of the Red Cross.

(h) Laboratory Works.

All laboratory examinations required are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter or the department of Pathology at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

(i) Meals on Wheels.

The Meals on Wheels Service operated by the W.V.S. provided 1981 meals during the year at an average of from 19 to 25 meals a day on two days a week. The caravan kitchen was not available during the year and the service operated from temporary kitchen premises.

## SECTION C

### 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

#### (a) Sewerage.

This year again brought no positive action to overcome the dreadful state of affairs at the Lords Meadow Works.

The scheme now seems to be completely stationary and the Council's officers are powerless to do any more.

After much negotiation a draft agreement was settled between Officers of the Council and Directors of Express Dairy (London) Ltd. but this seemed to be an eleventh hour effort by the Dairy just before the existing agreement was terminated by the Council.

The scheme and waste agreement are now in the hands of the Ministry but it is to be hoped that 1965 will see a start as many people think the Council are delaying the scheme when in fact, nothing is further from the truth.

With the rate of development the likelihood of river pollution must rise each year and it is to be hoped that one final shoulder charge by all the authorities concerned will set the machine in motion.

#### (b) Water.

Although extra supplies were required for domestic properties built during the year the overall water requirements of the town dropped during the year. This was almost entirely due to Express Dairy drawing very little water because of the drop in milk supplies.

Water was extracted as follows:-

Uton Borehole	53,811,500 galls.
Walson Adit	39,240,100 galls.
Newcombes Borehole	<u>3,675,250 galls.</u>
	<u>96,726,850 galls.</u>

Metered supplies dropped to 21,484,000 gals. during the year, that is approximately 58,700 gals. per day and domestic requirements rose to 205,580 gals. per day.

Average daily consumption for all users was 264,280 gals. per day rising to 297,000 gals. per day during the peak week.

Sample results were as follows:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Uton (raw water)	16	16	Nil
Uton (after treatment)	16	16	Nil
Walson (raw water)	16	11	5
Walson (after treatment)	16	15	1
	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 58	<hr/> 6

Mains were extended in the year at Prince of Wales Road, Longmeadows and Threshers and difficulties in supplying one dwelling at Parks were overcome.

The Council are now in the happy position of supplying water to the whole district with the exception of one isolated British Railways Crossing Cottage, all supplies being adequate and of good pressure.

(c) Public Conveniences.

Following my 1963 report the Council looked into the position of public conveniences and a site was selected for a new convenience. Alas, parking restrictions likely to be introduced made it unsafe to proceed with the proposal on the site suggested so good intentions did not mature.

However more money is being made available in 1965 so some improvement will be forthcoming. However, whether it is possible to provide washing facilities in the cramped space available remains to be seen.

I do feel that the unsuitability of the one site found should not deter the Council from seeking an alternative site to erect a new convenience.

(d) Refuse Collection.

The collection service was extended to meet developments in the town but with the long haul to tip consideration will have soon to be given to a vehicle of higher capacity to cut down travelling time.

With the increase in unsatisfactory refuse containers appearing at the kerbside publicity ought to be given to the Council's dustbin hire service.

The tip is available to townspeople for ridding themselves of any refuse and there is really no need for derelict cars to appear in odd spots requiring considerable work in locating owners and getting the cars taken to the tip.

Efforts must be increased to provide controlled tipping which would do a lot to overcome the nuisance of paper blowing on to the adjacent road. In order to properly operate controlled tipping a tracked type vehicle should be kept at the tip at all times.

(e) Rodent Control.

During the year the Council's sewerage system was treated but very few takes of bait occurred.

A small amount of survey and treatment work was carried out as follows:-

Type of Property	No. of Properties Surveyed.	No. of Properties Treated.	No. of treatments.
Private	25	7	16
Business	13	Nil	Nil
Council	<u>Nil</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>38</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>22</u>

(f) Sanitary Inspections.

(1) Summary of visits.

Council Properties	213
Private Houses	174
Food Premises	102
Slaughterhouses	120
Offices etc.	15
Other Premises	137

(ii) Notices Served.

Housing Acts.

Time & Place Notices	2 properties.
Undertakings given not to re-let	2 properties.

Public Health Acts.

Dangerous buildings (sec.58) 2 properties.

Informal Notices. 5 properties.

(g) Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

With the coming into force of the above Act registration of all premises was necessary and after notification to all premises it is considered that the premises requiring registration had in fact registered during the year.



Details of registered premises are:-

Offices	19
Retail Shops	36
Catering Establishments	<u>4</u>
Total	<u>59</u>

15 visits were made during the year to premises and to date no major defaulters have been found.

SECTION D

5. HOUSING

General Housing.

No local authority housing was carried out in the year but great strides were taken in the provision of new private houses. Numbers completed were:-

Two Bedrooms	55
Three Bedrooms	53
Four Bedrooms	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>111</u>

With other sites becoming available it seems likely that a considerable number of houses will be completed next year.

Slum Clearance.

Slow progress was maintained during the year with the demolition of houses in confirmed Clearance areas and the figures for the year show 8 houses demolished.

No. of houses in Clearance Areas	87
No. of houses in Clearance Areas demolished	76
No. of other houses demolished	5
ten	

### Housing List.

The position at the end of 1964 was:-

No. on Council's Waiting List already resident in the Urban District	77
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No. on Council's Waiting List wanting to move into the district	<u>32</u>
Total	<u>109</u>

Accommodation required by these families  
is:-

One bedroom	50
Two Bedroom	27
Three Bedroom	32

### Building Byelaws.

The following inspections were made to  
enforce the Council's Building Byelaws:-

Foundations	112
Oversite concrete	85
Damp proof course	103
Drains	163
Routine	35
Completion	157

### Improvement Grants.

One application was made for a Discretionary  
Grant which was refused.

Standard Grant details were as follows:-

No. of applications received	11
No. of applications approved	11
No. of applications refused	Nil
No. of Improvements completed	8
Amenities provided	
Baths	8
Basins	7
Hot water	8
W.C.'s	7
Larders	8

eleven

Amount paid in Grants                      £1,075.

The Standard Grant system still does not seem to attract many of the people who could benefit considerably under its terms.

#### Caravan Sites.

High Street site has now been cleared of occupants and Glencreeedy continues to provide a good site for three vans.

#### Rent Act, 1957.

One application was received from a landlord to cancel certificate of repair, the tenant objected, but the certificate was cancelled by the Council.

#### Housing Act, 1964 - Improvement Areas.

With the mixed type of property in almost every street it was very difficult to specify improvement areas and unless a full survey is carried out in conjunction with slum clearance these areas will be impossible to declare.

### SECTION E

#### 6. FOOD & DRUGS.

During the year the following food was voluntarily surrendered:-

Cooked meat		2½ lbs.
Canned meats	104 tins	599 lbs.
Fish		140 lbs.
Canned fruit &		
Vegetable	305 tins	463 lbs.

In addition 18 x 6lb. tins of corned beef were detained during the typhoid outbreak in Scotland.



### Ice Cream.

13 samples of ice cream were taken during the year and provisionally graded as follows:-

Grade 1	7
Grade 2	4
Grade 3	2 unsatisfactory

This shows a deterioration in standard from the previous year.

### Food Hygiene Regulations.

It was pleasing to note how co-operative food premises proprietors were with Mr. Osborne and many of his suggestions were adopted readily by the trade.

It is unfortunate when an authority is able to build up this type of co-operation that junior officers often leave for more remunerative posts.

However the standard which Mr. Osborne set seems to have been maintained.

### Slaughter of Animals.

120 visits were made to the slaughterhouse during the year when 100% inspection was carried out. The following carcasses were inspected:-

	1964	1963	1962
Cattle	317	309	314
Calves	19	20	10
Sheep & Lambs	1062	907	905
Pigs	741	709	682

The following carcasses and offal were condemned:-

Cattle	2 hearts	(Cyst.B)
	1 head	(Cyst.B)
	1 skirt	(peritonitis)
	4 livers	(Flukes)
	7 livers	(Cysts)
Sheep	1 Ewe	(inflammation)
	1 lamb	(fever)
	20 livers	(Cysts)
	2 hearts	(Cysts)
	1 leg	(Joint inflamed)
	1 rib cage	(Pneumonia)
Pigs	22 heads	(T.B.)
	15 hearts	(Peritonitis)
	7 livers	(Peritonitis)

#### SECTION F

#### 7. FACTORIES.

49 factories were on the register in 1964 and 30 inspections were carried out.

The outworkers lists showing flare parachute workers were discontinued and one outworker engaged in knitting notified by another authority.

#### SECTION G

#### 8. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

##### Notified Infectious Diseases.

No cases of infectious diseases were notified.

FOOD POISONING.

A small outbreak of food poisoning occurred after a party had been served with a meal at a local hotel.

As a result 15 specimens of faeces were taken and heat resistant Cl. Welchii was isolated in 11 cases.



Appendix 1  
Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.  
In Whole or in Part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	317	Nil	19	1062	741	Nil
Number Inspected	317	Nil	19	1062	741	Nil
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis and</u> <u>Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	Nil	Nil	22	17	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3178	Nil	Nil	2.25	2.29	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	22	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.97	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil





